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LINES WORTH REMEMBERING.
Advice well before you begin; and when you have decided, act promptly.—SALLUST.
OUR WORN-OUT LEGISLATIVE SYSTEM.

THE body of solons who are meeting in our midst anew will not do it because they are not built that way, but nevertheless and notwithstanding, they could perform no higher service for the people of the state than submit a proposed constitutional amendment providing for a unicameral legislative system. We say they are not built that way because they are like the legislators of the past who, following the lines of least resistance, are satisfied with the existing system, and, moreover, are also beneficiaries thereof. They are, for the most part, new and inexperienced men in the art of statecraft, and the idea that a better and more scientific, more business-like system can be worked out has occurred to but few of them.

The unicameral legislative system is to the state what the commission form of government is to the city. It centralizes responsibility and therefore yields better, more economical government.

We have the commission form of government in use in about twenty-five cities in the state. Most of them adopted it from five to ten years ago. Their people have had abundant time for observing its operation. Go to any one of them and seek to overthrow it for the old aldermanic system. You will likely start a riot. Not one of them would momentarily contemplate returning to the old system.

The same would be true of the unicameral legislative system if we could but give it a trial. It would be found so responsive to our needs, so productive of efficiency and economy in the conduct of state affairs, that we would look upon the individual who proposed a return to the existing system much in the same light as we know look upon the one who wants us to return to the old system in our cities—as a designing, self-seeking charlatan with an ax to grind.

The business of governing a state is much on the same order as the business of governing a city, save that it is more extensive, affects more people. But in the final analysis, both are mere questions of efficiency and economy. That being true, why could not a unicameral legislative body of restricted membership—a commission, if you please—perform the legislative function for a state as well as a commission for a city? Why could not fifteen or twenty high class, representative men, coming from the four corners of the state, serve us with greater economy and efficiency than the 156 now here, the bulk of whom have never had a day's legislative experience, know nothing about the state's affairs, and are here principally to look after an appropriation for some public institution in their district and draw their per diem?

A lecturer in New Orleans declared that women have as much right as men to poison themselves by smoking. He forgot to mention that temperance in smoking will not hurt anyone; it is the intemperance in the poison process which causes all the trouble.

An inquirer wishes to know if Luke McLuke is a married man, and if so, why does he knock his fellows? And if he's not married, the same inquirer is keen to find out why Luke discourages the matrimonial game, if it can be called a game.

A pastor at Gotebo was presented with an automobile. This kind of a present overshadows the "pound supper" which parishes provided in the early days for their pastors.

A judge has ruled that pedestrians have the right of way at street crossings. But the ruling is poor consolation for the mangled fellow who lies in a hospital recovering from bruises obtained when a motor car knocked him down.

SOLVING THE TENANT PROBLEM.

OKLAHOMA has many tenant farmers. So have other states. On account of the great amount of Indian land in this state which is leased to white farmers, the number of tenants seems surprisingly large. But leaving out the question of the land owned by Indians, there are yet too many tenants, and if our legislature wishes to relieve the situation, it will prepare the way to establish a graduated land tax.

There is a general belief that one man owns 100,000 acres of timber land in southern Oklahoma. If the tax on that land is placed at the maximum, the owner would be forced to sell part of it to the men who now are renting farms.

There are many great ranches in Oklahoma. Some of them are tenanted; others are operated by owners. Meantime the tenant farmer finds it difficult to acquire land where he may establish a permanent home and create improvements which will make the farm attractive.

Of course it would not be fair to establish a graduated land tax to take effect at once; any measure which is passed by the legislature providing for a vote of the people to amend the constitution in the interest of the tenant farmer should give the large land owner a reasonable time to sell that part of his land which he may feel that he cannot hold and pay the maximum tax which would be levied against large acreage.

The land owner will find little trouble in selling his land at fair prices. If he will be content to sell on liberal terms he can realize to his satisfaction. Perhaps he may be able to get substantial initial payments, but more often he will not be able to do so. In that event, he can make a good trade for himself and the prospective home builder by selling a quarter section to a selected tenant on the same, or similar, terms which the government devised to encourage homestead settlement.

This homestead sale of lands has resulted in opening up millions of acres of fine agricultural land in the United States, increasing the production capacity of the country, creating homes for the thrifty, adding to taxable values, and bringing contentment to thousands of families who might never have owned homes except through the meritorious homestead system.

Except for the payment of a nominal filing fee the homesteader who located on Oklahoma land at the time of opening the territory to white settlement had ample time in which to make the payment of \$125 an acre and take title to his farm. The easy terms gave him the chance to own a home, and Oklahoma has prospered through the system.

So, if the legislature will proceed in such manner to give the people the opportunity of voting on a graduated land tax amendment, Oklahoma will see the passing of great landed areas and in their places will come the fine farm, cozy country home, intensive cultivation, a betterment of school conditions, a happy juvenile population, and the banishment of the tenant system, which is a drawback to any commonwealth.

Cigaret, cigar and pipe smoking caused Oklahoma property owners a fire loss of \$21,000 last year. The loss was covered by insurance. The tobacco which was burned was not insured.

LETTING THE WOMEN VOTE.

CHIVALROUS legislators of Oklahoma expect to support a resolution which will bring the question of women's suffrage to the polls for a decision. Yet there are a few members of the legislature who, while they might be willing to let the women vote, cannot reconcile themselves to a condition whereby the women will pick off the juicy offices which carry fat salaries with them.

Just how much opposition will develop in the legislature when the women's suffrage resolution appears before that body, no one knows, but there are some lawmakers who are politically ambitious, that have read Cardinal Gibbons' remarks on the women in politics, and it is expected that these remarks will be used in the debate on the floor of both house and senate. Here is what the distinguished cardinal said about the women:

As far as I have observed, it appears that woman suffrage to the extent that it has been granted in this country, has not changed the result of the election. There has been a large vote, but the results have been the same as they would have been if women had not voted. Thus it seems that our political life has not been benefited or purified by the entrance of women into the political arena, though the domestic life of those engaged in this political work must have been neglected, or at least impaired.

When I deprecate female suffrage I am pleading for the dignity of woman, I am contending for her honor, I am striving to perpetuate those peerless prerogatives inherent in her sex, the charms and graces which exalt womanhood and make her the ornament and coveted companion of man. Woman is queen indeed, but her empire is the domestic kingdom. The greatest political triumphs she could achieve in public life fade into insignificance compared with the serene glory which radiates from the domestic shrine and which she illuminates and warms by her conjugal and motherly virtues.

When national prohibition comes in 1920, what's to become of all the workers who have labored for prohibition and who will be out of jobs?

Does anyone know if the legislature expects to regulate the prices of eggs?

LUKE McLUKE
--HIS COLUMN
Copyright 1916

Same Thing.
He never swears.
Does Mr. Roe?
He says that War
Is Mexico.

The Limit.
"Old Crabbe is a disagreeable cuss, isn't he?" remarked Smith.
"He certainly is," agreed Jones.
"Why, he seems to imagine that we were given hands and feet so that we could knock and kick."

Why Not?
You will agree, I surely hope.
And I'll leave it to you;
For why should not a periscope
Be called a point of view?

Easy.
"I wish I knew some way to make a fortune in a hurry," sighed Mrs. Gabb.
"That's easy," growled Mr. Gabb.
"Just invent a mirror that will convince a woman that she is as pretty as she thinks she is."

An Optimist.
"With gout my legs
Are puffed," said Reed;
"I'm glad I'm not
A centipede."

Gladly!
There is a grocer at Montpelier, Ohio who is making a bare living. His name is Dave Naked.

Happily, Happily.
"Did Stella marry happily?" asked Gladys.
"Should say she did," remarked Estelle.
"Why she gets \$200 a month alimony."

Oh!
Some girls like to be left alone and others are fond of lots of male companionship. But what we started to say was that the girls at Delaware, Ohio, are satisfied to have Billy Nye.

Sure Sign.
I will not shake him by the hand,
I speak of Billy Bull;
His conversation's empty, and
I know that he is full.

Yes, But Whaddy Ya Mean?
All electric lights will be put underground to eliminate their unsightly appearance.—Gallipolis Journal.

Wuff!
There was an old dorky, his name was Steve,
He went out to get chickens one dark eve;
He got in the coop, and was about to
When the building said: "I got ya, Steve!"
—Billie Wood.

Watch Us Grow!
Omar Copher, Preston, Ky.; Henry Kindig, York, Penn.; and Luke Dye, Flemingsburg, Ky., have joined the club.

Notice!
If Miss Iva Beard, a student at Georgetown (Ky.) college, will report at the club our gentlemanly barbers will fix her up.

Oh, Joy!
James Freeze of Parkersburg, W. Va., has been appointed furnace tender for the club. Frosty Knight of Parkersburg, W. Va., gets into the club weather bureau. C. A. Roach of Parkersburg, W. Va., will endeavor to drive the water bugs out of the club kitchen.

Going Down, of Course!
Luke McLuke has discovered that Scotch whisky comes from Pennsylvania. That's nothing. What the majority of men seem to want to know is, where is it going?—San Marcos (Texas) Times.

Names Is Names.
Noah Burd lives at Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Our Daily Special.
It Is The Other Fellow's Lot That Makes Us Discontented With Our Own.

Luke McLuke Says
Matrimony demonstrates the fact that a Fool and his Money are soon parted. And as soon as the Money has gone, a Fool and his Honey are soon parted.

Every man who rides a hobby imagines that he is the only jockey in the race.

Once in a while you will run across the fellow who once paid a nickel for a Charity tag on Tag Day and who is saving the tag as a passport so he can show it to St. Peter and get into Heaven.

It is easy enough to laugh at trouble—when it comes to the other fellow! Johnny Fay is in favor of the saloons closing at 11 p. m. He claims

SIDELIGHTS ON WAR MOVES

Proposed free states between Black and Aegean Seas, establishment of which would open Bosphorus to all nations on equal terms.

IT WAS before Trepoff, the Russian premier, had announced to the duma that the allies had promised the Dardanelles and Constantinople to the czar that Sir Edwin Pears made his statement in the United States that the strait should be forever neutralized and free to all nations; but he still thinks so in spite of the now declared arrangement with Russia. And he thinks so as a friend of Russia, not as an Englishman who would see Russia cheated of any real reward for her part in the war. He makes the point that the Dardanelles and Constantinople will not be a reward, but something worse than a white elephant.

Sir Edwin qualifies as an expert witness on international affairs that hinge about the Bosphorus by the fact that, for more than forty years, he has lived in Constantinople, where he was president of the International Bar, and where he wrote reports on the affairs of the near east that were put into the British Blue Book, and had much to do with influencing Gladstone's Turkish policy.

"A bargain is a bargain," said Sir Edwin, "and if England and France and Italy have agreed that Russia is to have Constantinople and the Dardanelles she must have them. But it would be much better for Russia herself not to have them, for the possession will mean sure sucture and more war."

First Nicholas Opposed Move.
"When Russian occupancy of Constantinople was being discussed in the presence of the first Czar Nicholas, at the time of the Crimean war, he said: 'The first day that we occupy Constantinople with a view to remaining there permanently will be the first day of Russia's downfall.' Nicholas was a great international statesman. What he said then is equally true now."

"Years after that I had a conversation, myself, with the great Russian General Skobelev, in the course of which I asked him when the Russians were coming to Constantinople, and he replied that Russia would not dare to come to Constantinople until after she had smashed the power of the states lying along the Danube. The remark of Skobelev also has great significance in this year 1916 in connection with the agreement by which Russia may now go to Constantinople with the consent of her allies.

The geography of the situation is all against the carrying out of such an agreement without grave danger of war. If Russia took Constantinople, her only free way of reaching it from her own territory would be over the Black Sea. It is called Black because it is stormy, with only two harbors of refuge on the way. To reach it by land she would have to travel over 300 miles of Rumanian and Bulgarian territory. It was that territory which Skobelev had in mind when he spoke of smashing the power of the state along the Danube.

Would Offend Balkan States.
"So, if Russian possession of Constantinople and the Dardanelles means driving a path down the Balkan peninsula, it will also mean the killing of her children, for Russia created Bulgaria and Rumania. I doubt if she will want to lose the reputation she now enjoys in every Balkan country of being a deliverer. She has that reputation even today among the people of Bulgaria with whom she is at war. The misunderstanding there is not due to the people of Bulgaria, but to the king, and when the Russian armies get into Bulgaria there doubtless will be large defections of the native troops to the czar's standards.

In Greece the policies are a higgledy-piggledy, but here, too, the Greek people look upon Russia as their savior, and here also there is a king not in accord with his people. It has always been the traditional hope and belief in Greece that some time they would have Constantinople. There is even an ancient prophecy that there will be another King Constantine in Constantinople, and that he shall have a wife named Sophia, the name of the wife of the present King Constantine of Greece.

"A paper in Constantinople has suppressed recently for reprinting a reference to that prophecy which had appeared in a Greek paper. I doubt very much if Russia wants to risk winning the hatred of the Greeks by destroying that ancient hope. And, to return to the Balkans, it is almost an axiom of the clear-thinking, far-seeing statesmen of Russia that they must not lose the confidence of the states on the peninsula, and they surely would lose it by claiming and exercising the right to send troops across their territory to a new Russian possession.

"If Russia were now allowed to block the commerce which flows down the Danube and out through the Black Sea and the Dardanelles, by fortifying the strait, she would be attacked eventually by every nation in central and eastern Europe. With such a menace and with the resentment of the Balkans and of Greece against Russia we could expect no permanent peace in Europe."

that if a man isn't full by that time, he isn't half trying.

When a man manages to ride on a street car without paying the representative of the Grasping Corporation his fare, he feels that Right has triumphed over Might.

A lot of citizens have so much rabbit blood in them that they want their pet newspaper to do their kicking for them.

Every old maid thinks it is perfectly shameful the way married women fail to manage their husbands.

A patent medicine testimonial is headed: "Couldn't Lie on Either Side." It is very evident that the patient wasn't a lawyer.

Some married men can make themselves at home anywhere but at home. Maybe Nature didn't give a woman a Sense of Humor for the reason that if she had one she would laugh and grow fat.

Temptation is one thing that is sure to come to those who wait.

A married man may be henpecked at home. But he isn't a bit afraid of the chickens he meets when he is away from home.

OLD STORIES IN NEW TYPE
From The TIMES FILES

Twenty Years Ago.
Jasper Sipes went to Perry today.

W. A. Ledbetter of Norman was in the city today.

Byron Shear and Rev. Cronk returned from a hunting trip yesterday.

Frank Kenyon returned from Stillwater last night.

Fifteen Years Ago.
Mrs. Brough and little daughter Wilmer Bell are visiting friends here.

Will S. Guthrie is among the latest purchasers in the Colcord-Parker addition.

J. H. and Dr. Wilkin and families returned today from southern Texas where they spent Christmas.

Miss Annie Wilson of Missouri arrived this morning to visit her brother Attorney W. F. Wilson.

Ten Years Ago.
Will Overholser returned today from a successful hunt at Bridgeport.

Miss Gertrude Ryan gave an enjoyable skating party at the rink last night. Her guests were Misses Marguerite Colcord, Corinne Pollock, Helen Richardson, Hazel Murphy, Edith Norris, Crystella Easley, Winifred McGlassen, Frances Garrison, Leon Lund, Mary Harrell, Christine Carpenter, Pearl Atwood, Lela Kirby, Irma Rash, Irma Dalbey, and Messrs. D. C. Woods, Royal Carson, Joe Barnett, Paul Richardson, Sam Richardson, Truman Dunn, Dick Rogers and Allen Brooks.

S. P. Render of Norman, vice president of the R. J. Clark Coal company, was in the city today.

Joseph Huckleberry left today for a few days in Texarkana where he will spend a few days at the Huckleberry House on business.

HISTORY BITS.

One Hundred Years Ago Today.
1817—Thomas E. Bramlette, civil war soldier and governor of Kentucky, born in Cumberland county, Ky. Died in Louisville, Jan. 12, 1875.

Seventy-Five Years Ago Today.
1842—College of the Immaculate Conception was organized at New Orleans.

Fifty Years Ago Today.
1867—Russian imperial decrees were issued abolishing the remains of Polish nationality.

Twenty-Five Years Ago Today.
1892—Captain Hardie, with a detachment of the Third cavalry dispersed a band of Mexican outlaws.

One Year Ago Today in the War.
January 3, 1916—President Wilson hurried back to Washington to handle crisis over torpedoing of steamship Persia; Petrograd reported vigorous attacks by the Russians in Galicia and Bessarabia.

RIPPLING RHYMES
By Walt Mason
Copyright 1916

UNWISE PRAISE.

YOU praise your kid before his face, explain to callers he's a peach, the pride and glory of the race, the only pebble on the beach. And soon that kid an aleck grows, a smartly all swelled up with pride; and people long to twist his nose, and lam the sawdust from his hide. The greatest bore that ever was is that obtrusive, forward kid, whose parents gave him wild applause for everything he ever did. When grave and thoughtful people call, to talk of weather and the crops, young Willie grieves and shoos them all, by his persistent, foolish yawns. The grave and thoughtful people look to see the father take a strap, or strip of board, or shepherd's crook, and pound that most annoying chap. But father smiles, as does his spouse, he says, "Our Willie is so gay! He is a sunbeam in the house, he surely drives one's cares away!" The callers do not tarry long, they harken from young Willie's door, and sigh, "How sweet to take a thong, and swat that kid until he's sore!"

MUTT AND JEFF—An Ink Eraser Beats a Leech All Hollow For Black Eyes.
(Copyright, 1917, by M. C. Fisher, Trade Mark Registered U. S. Patent Office.)
BY BUD FISHER

Handwritten N.C.
Dec. 19 1916.
Mr. Bud Fisher
% News and Observer.
Dear Sir:-
I have four kid brothers. Please publish your recipe for curing Jeff's black eye over night.
Yours truly,
Lucy

WELL, LUCKY, YOU SEE
IT'S LIKE THIS. WHEN JEFF
HAS A BLACK EYE, WE SIMPLY PICK
UP THE ERASER AND —

FIRMLY BUT GENTLY ERASE THE
SAID OPTIC AND —

TAKE THE PEN AND DRAW IN A
DECENT SIZED LAMP AND —

THAT'S ALL
THERE IS
TO IT!
TRY IT ON YOUR BROTHERS.